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**Statement of Rep. Tony Staskunas, 2007 AB 405
Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice
December 5, 2007**

Chairman and members of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice, I am the lead Assembly author of Assembly Bill 405.

Assembly Bill 405 requires that a person who commits first-degree intentional homicide knowing that the victim is a law enforcement officer would not be eligible for parole or extended supervision.

As you know, Wisconsin enacted some significant changes to our state's criminal sentencing laws in 1999 with 'Truth in Sentencing'. For first-degree intentional homicide crimes committed after December 31, 1999 the court must make an extended supervision eligibility date. Assembly Bill 405 would change this provision by eliminating the possibility of extended supervision for convicted cop killers.

While in the process of working with Rep. Gundrum on Assembly Bill 537, a proposal relating to notification of the local law enforcement agencies if a cop killer is being released from prison, this issue came to my attention.

Frankly I was surprised to learn that the penalty for an individual who knowingly killed a law enforcement officer is not currently a mandatory life imprisonment sentence. I believe that the victim's family, the law enforcement colleagues and the community should not have to deal with the release of a cop killer and the consequences of inadvertently encountering them on the street.

On a more personal note, I have a family member who lost her father, a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty. This past summer it was discovered that her father's murderer was no longer in a maximum security prison. In fact he had been transferred to a minimum security facility with work release privileges. Knowing this perpetrator was on the streets, even if it was only for work hours understandably caused great stress.

Our law enforcement officials symbolize authority and shoulder the burden of keeping order in our society. Now more than ever, we need to protect them and their families with the passage of Assembly Bill 405 as they put their lives on the line to protect us.

Mr. Chairman and members, thank you for your kind attention today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



SENATOR JEFF PLALE
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**Testimony of Senator Jeff Plale, Assembly Bill 405
December 5, 2007
Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice,**

Thank you Chairman Kleefisch and members of the committee for your consideration of this bill.

SB 405 is a necessary bill for the protection of those who serve to protect Wisconsin Citizens. Wisconsin police officers and their families must be assured that they will be protected from recently-released convicts seeking vengeance. Passing this bill is the least we can do for individuals whose job requires them to sacrifice their safety and lives on a daily basis.

This bill offers us the ability to give more than mere condolences to those that have been struck by tragedy. I can only hope that this bill will be passed quickly so that the grief experienced by families of law enforcement will not be felt by other families.

Again, I want to thank the committee for hearing my testimony today, and I strongly urge you to support this bill. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

